



## MILWAUKEE EARTH MONTH

SPECIAL EDITION



### Share our Secret and Win a Secret Adventure!

by Ken Leinbach, Executive Director

For many of you, the Urban Ecology Center is your "secret gem" ... And while we are honored to be considered a gem, we'd love it if you would share our secret with your friends!

It was the best "wild ice" for skating that I have found in years. A vast expanse of smooth-as-glass clear ice made not by a Zamboni, but by Mother Nature herself. And perhaps the biggest surprise of all? This "secret gem" wasn't some hidden lake up state, but it was right here, in the shadow of the US Bank building downtown. I've been here over 20 years now and I still keep finding the unexpected. This is why I LOVE living in Milwaukee.

Of course, it was a "secret" only to me. A few ice fishermen had found this spot as well. In fact, that's why I was there in the first place. I was invited by one of the fishermen to come and check out this world class fishing area in the heart of our fair city (see our blog for the full story and a photo of what we caught!). As one who was "in the know," he was proud and excited to let me in on this "secret." It was awesome!

As Milwaukee Earth Month approaches, I've been thinking about how special these hidden natural areas are. For many of you, the Urban Ecology Center is your "secret gem" not only because of our beautiful oases tucked into urban neighborhoods, but also because of the work we do to connect people to the outdoors. As a member, you know that those brightly colored buses driving kids to nearby parks are part of a larger community committed to teaching people of all ages about nature and science. You may have borrowed a canoe, taken a class or just played board games with your kids at one of our branches. You're "in the know" and together we're celebrating

"Milwaukee Earth Month" all year long. We're extremely grateful for your support.

And while we are honored to be considered a gem, we'd love it if you would share our secret with your friends! What do you say?

In honor of Milwaukee Earth Month this April, we would like those who are willing, to recruit one or two (or five or ten) new members to join us! Invite them for a walk through a park. Borrow bikes and hit the Oak Leaf Trail. Bring them to a class. Then ask them to join! Ask them to join for their own enjoyment. Ask them to join so everyone has access to nature. Ask them to join to support our efforts to restore urban land and rivers.

Share the secret! Celebrate Milwaukee Earth Month by helping us connect even more people to the outdoors. 🌿

**As an extra incentive**, for every new member you bring your name will be entered in a drawing to win a one-of-a-kind "Milwaukee Secret Gem Adventure and Dinner" led by me, a 20-year resident who specializes in finding the quirky, unusual and fun parts of this city. Your odds to win increase with each new member you bring in. **The person who brings the most new members** will get to come with a friend. **Plus two winners will be selected at random** with each able to bring a friend. Use the form in the back of the newsletter or create your own membership drive page online at: [urbanecologycenter.org/MilwaukeeEarthMonth](http://urbanecologycenter.org/MilwaukeeEarthMonth).

## LOCATIONS & HOURS

### Riverside Park

1500 E. Park Place  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211  
(414) 964-8505 Fax: (414) 964-1084  
jferschinger@urbanecologycenter.org

Hours of operation:  
Monday - Thursday: 9am - 7pm  
Friday & Saturday: 9am - 5pm  
Sunday: Noon - 5pm

### Washington Park

1859 N. 40th St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53208  
(Mailing address: 4145 W. Lisbon Ave., 53208)  
(414) 344-5460 Fax: (414) 344-5462  
tevens@urbanecologycenter.org

Hours of operation:  
Tuesday - Friday: Noon - 6pm  
Saturday: 9am - 5pm

### Menomonee Valley

3700 W. Pierce St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53215  
(414) 431-2940  
gholstein@urbanecologycenter.org

Hours of operation:  
Tuesday - Friday: Noon - 7pm  
Saturday: 9am - 5pm

[www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org](http://www.UrbanEcologyCenter.org)  
Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

Our 9<sup>th</sup> annual

# Summer Solstice Soirée

Save the Date Saturday, June 18 AT Riverside Park

## DROPLETS

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE TOPICS ON OUR WEBSITE

- **Urban Wilderness Expressions Contest.** How would you answer "What is your favorite local green space or park, and why?" Your answer expressed in words, artwork, video, song or dance could win a prize! In partnership with the Sierra Club, we are hosting an Urban Wilderness Expression Contest in honor of Earth Day. Urban Wilderness Expressions winners will perform or show their contest entries during our Milwaukee Earth Month celebration meal at Washington Park at noon on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Venice Williams of Alice's Garden will be our keynote speaker. Prizes for child and adult age groups to be awarded. Entry deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Call (414) 344-5460 for details.
- **New Summer Camps!** We have two new Summer Camps this year that we're excited to share with you: **Pathfinders — A Camp for Kids with Special Needs** and **High School Outdoor Adventures.** **Pathfinders** is for middle school youth with mild to moderate intellectual and physical disabilities and minimal mobility issues. Activities include hiking, canoeing, rock climbing. **High School Outdoor Adventures** transforms teens into a team of naturalists surviving out in the woods for one week. Teens will learn basic outdoor skills and grow a better understanding of themselves and the world around them.

## Branch Highlights

### RIVERSIDE PARK

After the ground thaws we will be back to work in the Arboretum. A prescribed burn will be done in the oak savanna in March. In April, work will begin to repair an eroding bluff. The impacted area runs parallel to the stairs leading down to the East Bank Trail on the south end of the Arboretum. Thank you for your patience.

### WASHINGTON PARK

We and the Sierra Club invite you to share your answer to the question: "What is your favorite local green space or park, and why?" in our Urban Wilderness Expression Contest. Your answer can be expressed through writing, dance, art or video. See details in Droplets above.

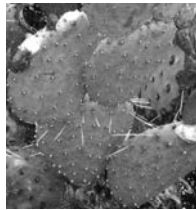
### MENOMONEE VALLEY

Every day is Milwaukee Earth Month at Menomonee Valley! We hope you'll join us for all the different ways we can appreciate our home planet throughout these two months, but we especially hope to see you at our Earth Day of Service, when we take a moment to give back and build a stronger community.

**SEE FOR YOURSELF!** (No really, see what's happened with your support)

# Signs *of* Life

Our habitat restoration efforts and research projects really go hand-in-hand. As we restore the land, we discover more and more mammals, birds, insects and amphibians using our parks. Our studies also help to determine the number of native plant species we've added that have "taken root" and are continuing to grow. Here are just a few highlights you can find.



We have planted over **462 native plant species in the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum** including 103 species (up from only 15) in the restored post-industrial land. And they're beginning to thrive! Trout lilies (shown above left), for example, have boomed since we've removed garlic mustard in the ravine.

**462** Native Plant Species

photo credits: David G. Smith (delawarewildflowers.org), dw\_ross (found on flickr), Superior National Forest, pondhawk (found on flickr) and Fyn Kynd Photography (found on flickr)

## **Beavers!** in Riverside Park and the Menomonee Valley



**For the first time in over 20 years (and probably a lot longer)** Beaver activity has significantly increased in Riverside Park with frequent downed and gnawed trees and even a den! And it only took two years for a beaver to make an appearance in Three Bridges Park.



As a result of our studies, we have recorded **Marsh Bluets (shown above)** at Riverside and Washington Parks and **Stream Bluets** at Riverside Park and the Menomonee Valley.

These are two of several dragonfly and damselfly species that haven't been documented in Milwaukee county since **1907!**

We've found odanate species that haven't been recorded in Milwaukee for over

**100** years



If you'd like to support projects like these, consider volunteering or making a donation. Learn how at [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org)



## Great Lakes, Small Streams: How Water Shapes Wisconsin

by Beth Heller, Senior Director of Education and Strategic Planning

The Urban Ecology Center is joining forces with Mequon Nature Preserve, Riveredge Nature Center and Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, to help the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) get the word out about their brand new educational exhibit, "Great Lakes, Small Streams: How Water Shapes Wisconsin." What better way to generate buzz, than show off the exhibit at each of our Centers? This spring the exhibit will be travelling to all of the centers as a way to connect to people working with middle school age students. This beautiful collection of stories and images are the result of creative and collaborative work led by the Wisconsin Historical Society's Kristen Leffelman.

For me, the creation of this exhibit started about a year ago with a simple request: would someone on our staff be willing to assist with the development of an educational resource for schools, to engage middle school age audiences in learning about how water has shaped our state's economy, ecology and culture? This aligned well with our mission and goals. However, the request came as we were entering our busiest season and the staff was stretched.

In addition to this exhibit, one goal would be to assist with the development of an educational resource for schools to engage middle school audiences in learning about how water has

shaped our state's economy, ecology and culture. The WHS and the Urban Ecology Center came together to leverage what we each had available as existing resources to make this



happen. WHS was able to provide funding for the intern and could call on their already successful museum interpretation program. We hire about 30 summer interns to support us in our busy season so we had pertinent training already in our plans. Within a couple months we worked together to hire Mari Oates as an intern for both organizations focusing on this project.

At the same time, WHS was cultivating relationships with Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, the Water Council, the School of Freshwater Sciences, Milwaukee Public Schools

and many other historians, ecologists and naturalists. Joined together by the shared goal of creating an exhibit, each invested in this project in their own unique ways. Design and content were completed in the fall, and the exhibit will be launched in March.

Designed for easy transport, the exhibit will make its debut at the Urban Ecology Center in early March (check our website for the exact dates) starting at the Riverside Park branch. It will celebrate World Water Day on March 22nd until April 3rd at our Washington Park branch. Traveling north up the Milwaukee River watershed, the exhibit will land at Riveredge Nature Center on April 4th and remain there until April 17th. The next day it moves to Mequon Nature Preserve, where all five organizations will co-host a celebration of Earth Day on Friday April 22nd with historian John Gurda as keynote speaker. On May 2nd, heading south and east to Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, it will enjoy the shores of Lake Michigan until May 15th. At that point, it becomes available to other youth leaders and educators interested in using it. Join the celebration at any of these locations to learn more. Please contact Kristen Leffelman, kristen.leffelman@wisconsinhistory.org, (414) 988-8655 to bring it to your school or center. 🌿

### Credits:



**Carijean Buhk**  
Editor

The Urban Ecology Center Newsletter is created and distributed through a team effort by the following people: Carijean Buhk, Matthew Gnas, Judy Krause, Jeff McAvoy and Pat Mueller.

Contributing writers: Jamie Ferschinger, Davita Flowers-Shanklin, Beth Heller, Ken Leinbach and Miguel Santos.

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### Thank You to Our Contributing Members

Many thanks to the local foundations, corporations and individuals who have donated to the Center. The complete list of contributing members who have given within the last two months can be found on our website at [www.urbanecologycenter.org/thankyoulist](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/thankyoulist).

MARCH & APRIL

*Quick Guide*

An abbreviated listing of what's happening at the Urban Ecology Center. Find full descriptions and register online at [www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar)



CELEBRATE

# MILWAUKEE EARTH MONTH

at the URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER

*We're celebrating the Earth throughout the month of April!*

*This year we will be sending out eco-friendly living tips and growing our community. To submit a tip or help us spread the word about membership, visit [urbanecologycenter.org/MilwaukeeEarthMonth](http://urbanecologycenter.org/MilwaukeeEarthMonth)*

## Earth Day of Service

SATURDAY, APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup> | 9:00 AM - NOON | **FREE!** | AT ALL THREE BRANCHES

Come celebrate the Earth by giving back. Bring your friends and spend a morning helping with volunteer activities in the parks followed by a community lunch. Meet new people and have fun helping the Earth! Family hikes and "mini" service projects also available at 9:30 and 11am.



This event is your a once-a-year opportunity to talk with local farmers, hear about their growing practices, and learn about their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) subscription options. Sign up to get local deliveries of boxes of farm-fresh healthful produce and more. Attend a workshop, explore the benefits of convenient Workplace CSA deliveries, buy lunch, visit the Resource Table.

**Saturday, March 12**  
**11 AM - 3 PM | Free!**  
AT OUR RIVERSIDE PARK BRANCH

### RIVERSIDE PARK



We have a real treat for you... the **Henhouse Prowlers** will be performing on April 8th at Riverside Park in a concert to benefit the Urban Ecology

Center! The Henhouse Prowlers have traveled the world playing their bluegrass and world-inspired music. From lightning fast picking to sentimental ballads, the Prowlers' show has something for everyone and will leave no one wanting. Space is limited, so purchase your tickets early!

— Jamie Fersching,  
Branch Manager - Riverside Park

### WASHINGTON PARK



Spring is finally here and so is Milwaukee Earth Month! Come on out and join us as we celebrate with our **Earth Day of Service on April 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Another year and

another opportunity to help make Washington Park a destination for all as we clean the park, remove invasive garlic mustard and plant seeds from the native plants growing in Washington Park. Then stay for an action-packed day of food and exhibits. Let's build a healthy environment and neighborhood for everyone.

— Terry Evans,  
Branch Manager - Washington Park

### MENOMONEE VALLEY



March/April is always a transition, so whether you're holding onto the last bits of winter or are more than ready for spring, we have something for you! Take

advantage of our last **Cross Country Skiing** and **Snowshoeing for Beginners** classes of the season during March. And then in April, introduce a friend to the Center with a **Family Hike, Korean Cooking**, or a lecture on the **Restoration of Wisconsin's Iconic Whooping Cranes with George Archibald**, founder of the International Crane Foundation!

— Glenna Holstein,  
Branch Manager - Menomonee Valley

This events guide gives you a "snapshot" view of the programs and events happening at the Urban Ecology Center's three branches. Full descriptions and details can be found on our website at [www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar)

MARCH  
& APRIL

# HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

## Henhouse Prowlers Concert to Benefit the Urban Ecology Center

Sponsored by *Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust*

The Henhouse Prowlers have traveled the world playing their bluegrass and world inspired music. From lightning fast picking to sentimental ballads, the Prowlers' show has something for everyone. Space is limited.

**(RP)** Fri., Apr. 8 | 7:30 - 9PM  
For adults | \$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)

## Restoration of Wisconsin's Iconic Whooping Cranes with George Archibald

Learn the history and future of Whooping Crane conservation from George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation (ICF). Since 2005, approximately 70 Whooping Crane chicks have been released in Wisconsin. The ICF plays a leading role in crane conservation, from captive breeding and release to reducing threats along flyways.

**(MV)** Tue., Apr. 12 | 7 - 8:30PM  
For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

## Native Landscaping Workshop Series

Discover how to design and add native plants to your landscape in this series. For adults | \$50 (Nonmember: \$65) for the entire 5-week series.  
**Registration required by April 13.**

**Why Plant Natives?**  
**(RP)** Wed., Apr. 20 | 5 - 7PM

**Measuring & Drawing Your Existing Yard**  
**(RP)** Wed., Apr. 27 | 5 - 7PM

**Creating the Blueprint for Your New Yard**  
**(RP)** Wed., May 4 | 5 - 7PM

**Plant Selection and Site Preparation**  
**(RP)** Wed., May 11 | 5 - 7PM

**Planting and Maintaining for the Long Term**  
**(RP)** Wed., May 18 | 5 - 7PM

# FAMILY PROGRAMS


## Creative Mapping Scavenger Hunt

Search for clues and learn navigation and map drawing skills in this scavenger hunt for families. Registration required by March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**(RP)** Sun., Mar. 6 | 10:30AM - NOON  
For elementary aged kids and/or families | \$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)

## Little Explorers: Friday Morning Playgroup

**(MV)** Fri., Mar. 11 & Apr. 8 | 11AM - NOON  
For children ages 4 and younger | Free - donations appreciated

**Creative Mapping **  
Learn navigation and mapping skills, then draw a map of your adventure. Registration required by March 9<sup>th</sup>.

**(RP)** Sun., Mar. 13 | 10:30AM - NOON  
For middle schoolers | \$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)

## Grandparents and Grandkids in Nature

Grandparents, bring your grandchildren of all ages and explore.  
**(WP)** Sat., Mar. 19 | 10 - 11:30AM  
For grandparents and accompanied grandchildren | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

## Family Cooking Class: Late Winter Vegetarian Stews

In this all-ages, hands-on class we'll make vegetarian stews, then enjoy a bowl with homemade bread. Bring a container. Children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Register by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**(RP)** Fri., Mar. 18 | 9:30 - 11AM  
For adults and kids | \$12 for individuals, \$22 for families (Nonmembers: \$18 for individuals, \$34 for families)

## Epic World Dance Party and Potluck

Celebrate culture and diversity through food and dancing. Several multicultural dances will be taught by instructors in 20-minute mini-lessons.

**(WP)** Sat., Mar. 19 | 4 - 6:30PM  
For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

## Green City Builders

Use grids and sustainable building practices to enhance your spatial thinking skills. Register by March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**For middle schoolers**  
**(RP)** Sun., Mar. 20 | 10:30AM - NOON  
\$26 (Nonmembers: \$30)

**For elementary students**  
**(RP)** Sun., Mar. 20 | 1:30 - 3PM  
\$26 (Nonmembers: \$30)

## Family Hike

Explore the trails! We'll end with story time by the fire.

**(MV)** Thu., Mar. 24 & Apr. 7 | 4 - 6PM  
For families with children | Free - donations appreciated

## Girl Scouts: Maple Sugaring

Dress for the weather. We'll taste syrup made from sap collected in our park.

**(RP)** Sat., Mar. 26 | 2 - 4PM  
For Girl Scouts in grades K-1st grade | To register, visit [gswise.org](http://gswise.org)

## Draw Like an Architect

Use hand spans and steps to learn scale, dimension, shape and volume then draw using architectural tools. Registration required by April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**(RP)** Sun., Apr. 10 | 1:30 - 3pm  
For teens | \$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)

## Korean Cooking with Saehee Chang

Take this cooking class with Saehee Chang. We'll make Veggie Rolls and Kimchi Pancakes. Register by April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**(MV)** Thu., Apr. 14 | 4 - 6PM  
For families | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10) (Free for Young Scientist Club members)

## Make Seed Bombs

These balls of compost, clay and seeds are a great way to spread native plants.

**(MV)** Sat., Apr. 16 | 1 - 2PM  
**(MV)** Tue., Apr. 19 | 4 - 5PM  
For adults and children | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

## Springtime Encounters with Nature

**(RP)** Wed., Apr. 27 | 5 - 7PM  
For families | \$5 per person (Nonmembers: \$7 per person)

## Korean Street Food and K-Pop

Enjoy K-Pop music and make Korean street food, including Spicy Rice Cakes in this hands-on class.

**(WP)** Sat., Apr. 30 | 1 - 4:00 PM  
For adults and accompanied children | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

## Nature Rangers

Sign up for either the Monday or Tuesday session.

**(RP)** Every Mon. or every Tue. | 4 - 5:30PM  
For children ages 5 and older | \$10 (Nonmember: \$15)

## EcoArt Wednesdays

**(MV)** Every Wed. | 4 - 5:30PM  
For families with children age 12 and younger | Free - donations appreciated

## Martial Arts

*Hosted by Above the Clouds*  
Register at [abovethecloudsmilwaukee.com](http://abovethecloudsmilwaukee.com) or at the door.

**(MV)** Every Wed. except Mar. 30 | 5:30 - 6:30PM  
For youth ages 9-15 | Free - donations appreciated

## Animal Feeding

Help feed our resident animals!  
**(RP)** **(WP)** & **(MV)** Every Sat. | 1PM  
For everyone | Free

## Young Scientists Club

**(WP)** Every Tue. - Fri. | 4 - 6PM and Every Sat. | 1 - 4PM  
For kids ages 7-12 | \$10 annual membership  
**(MV)** Every Tue. & Thu. except Apr. 28 | 4 - 6PM and Every Sat. | 1 - 4PM  
For ages 5-12 | \$10 annual membership

## HOMESCHOOL SERIES

### Capturing Phenology through Art

In each session we will discuss and observe the unique changes in each of our parks then represent them in a different form of artistic expression. For children ages 5 and older | \$7 (Nonmember: \$10)

### Journal Making and Journaling

**(MV)** Tue., Mar. 1 | 1 - 3PM

### Photography

**(RP)** Tue., Mar. 29 | 1 - 3PM

### Sketching and Painting

**(WP)** Tue., Apr. 19 | 1 - 3PM

## Quick Guide

### Earth Poets and Musicians Extravaganza

Celebrate our living planet with Jahmes Finlayson, Louisa Gallas, Holly Haebig-Wake, Suzanne Rosenblatt and Harvey Taylor and 10 more guests.

(RP) Fri., Apr. 22 | 8 - 10PM

For everyone | Suggested donation \$5 - \$10 to benefit the Urban Ecology Center

### Winter Tree Identification Series

Learn to identify trees after their leaves have fallen. Dress for the weather. Register for each class separately.

### Identifying Without Leaves Basics

(RP) Thu., Mar. 10 | 4:30 - 6:30PM

### Oaks

(RP) Thu., Mar. 17 | 4:30 - 6:30PM

### Maples and Ashes

(RP) Thu., Mar. 24 | 4:30 - 6:30PM

### Walnuts, Hickories, Beech, Sycamore

(RP) Thu., Mar. 31 | 4:30 - 6:30PM

### Birches and Elms

(RP) Thu., Apr. 7 | 4:30 - 6:30PM

### Cherries, Hawthorne, Crabapple, Poplars/Aspens

(RP) Thu., Apr. 14 | 4:30 - 6:30PM

### Basswood, Legumes, Witchhazel, and Common Non-Natives

(RP) Thu., Apr. 21 | 4:30 - 6:30PM

For adults | \$7 per class (Nonmembers: \$10 per class) Volunteers: \$5 per class

### From Beak to Tail:

#### *All About the Life of Birds*

Take an in-depth look into birds. The program features a dusk walk.

(MV) Sat., Mar. 12 | 3 - 4:30PM

(RP) Sat., Apr. 2 | 3 - 4:30PM

For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

### Fit 4 You Group Fitness Sessions

Hosted by Fit 4 You Traveling Trainer

(WP) Every Tue. | 6 - 7:30PM

For everyone | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

### Beginning Ballet For Adults

Join former professional ballet dancer Jennifer Callaghan for beginning ballet classes. No experience necessary.

(RP) Weds., Mar. 9, 16, 23

& 30 | 5:45 - 6:45 PM

For adults | \$8 per session (Nonmembers: \$9 per session)

### From Sap to Syrup! Maple Sugaring

Take an in depth look into how we make maple syrup, then enjoy pancakes with maple syrup.

(RP) Sats., Mar. 19, 26, Apr.

2 & 9 | 10AM - NOON

(WP) Sat., Mar. 12 | 10AM - NOON

(WP) Sats., Mar. 19, 26

& Apr. 2 | 1 - 3PM

For adults and supervised kids | Adults \$10 (Nonmembers: \$15); Kids \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)

### Locally Laid

Hosted by Boswell Books

Learn how Lucie Amundsen, author of *Locally Laid: How We Built a Plucky, Industry-changing Egg Farm* — from *Scratch*, went from a few backyard chickens to a pasture-raised egg farm with no agriculture experience. Book signing to follow.

(RP) Tue., Mar. 8 | 7 - 8:30PM

For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

### Preparing the Perfect Pie

Join us for a hands-on demonstration of simple pie baking with Community Pie. Register by Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

(WP) Wed., Mar. 9 | 6 - 8PM

For adults and accompanied children |

Adults: \$10 (Nonmembers: \$12)

Children: \$8 (Nonmembers: \$10)

### Urban Wild Spaces through Word and Image

Join Brenda Cardenas, Curt Meine, Lisa Roberts and Gavin Van Horn, co-editor of *City Creatures: Animal Encounters in the Chicago Wilderness*, for a discussion of how art can invite us into the lives of urban wildlife. Book signing to follow.

(RP) Thu., Mar. 10 | 7 - 8:30PM

For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

### Home Brewing Basics Series

Let's explore fermentation and brew ale together. Price includes four bottles of finished beer.

#### Session 1: Brewing Equipment, Recipes, Preparation and Fermentation

(WP) Wed., Mar. 23 | 6 - 8PM

#### Session 2: Bottling and Aging

(WP) Wed., Apr. 27 | 6 - 8PM

For adults age 21 and older |

\$15 (Nonmembers: \$20)

### Photo Phenology

Take pictures over the seasons!

(MV) Sats., Mar. 26 & Apr.

23 | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults, teens and families |

Free - donations appreciated

### Cache In, Trash Out!

Search for Geocaches and collect trash.

(MV) Sat., Apr. 2 | 10 - 11:30AM

For everyone | Free -

donations appreciated

### Fruit Tree Grafting

Graft and take home two apple, pear or plum semi-dwarf trees. Root stocks and scion wood provided. Bring a sharp knife. Register by March 29<sup>th</sup>.

(RP) Sat., Apr. 2 | NOON - 2PM

For adults | \$18 (Nonmembers: \$20)

### Scion Wood Exchange

Swap stories and trade scion wood from various trees. Bring as many types of cuttings as you wish.

(RP) Sat., Apr. 2 | 2 - 4PM

For adults and teens | Free -

donations appreciated

### Walk and Talk Series

Explore both our building and parks on a guided tour.

(MV) Wed., Apr. 13 | NOON - 1PM

(RP) Sat., Apr. 16 | 10 - 11AM

(WP) Wed., April 20 | 4:30 - 5:30PM

For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$10)

### Spring Naturalist Workshop

(RP) Sat., Apr. 30 | 10 - 12:30PM

For adults | \$5 (Nonmembers: \$7)

### Grow Your Own Mushrooms

Learn to grow mushrooms inside and out. Take home samples.

(WP) Wed., Apr. 6 | 6 - 8PM

For adults | \$7 (Nonmembers: \$10)

### Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II: Update and Training Session

Bill Mueller and Mike Reese provide an overview of the Breeding Bird Atlas II's first year and show you how you can contribute data through eBird.

(RP) Tue., Apr. 19 | 5:30 - 7PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

### Basic Culinary Knife Skills

Trained chef Annie Wegner LeFort will teach basic cutting techniques as well as discuss selection and care of knives. Register required by April 19<sup>th</sup>.

(RP) Thu., Apr. 21 | 7 - 8:30PM

For adults and teens | \$15

(Nonmembers: \$20)

### Among the Trees

Seeking quiet amid the city? Take a half-day nature retreat to reflect, renew and celebrate spring! Dress for the weather. Bring a journal. Registration required by April 20<sup>th</sup>.

(RP) Sun., Apr. 24 | 1 - 4PM

For adults | \$35 (Nonmembers: \$45)

### Vegan Cupcakes with Early Fruits

In this hands-on class you will learn how to make vegan cupcakes with fruits like rhubarb and strawberries. Registration required by April 26<sup>th</sup>.

(RP) Thu., Apr. 28 | 6 - 8PM

For adults and teens | \$25

(Nonmembers: \$35) Registration required by April 26

### Build Your Own Vermicompost Bin!

Leave with your very own in-home compost system! Register by April 26<sup>th</sup>.

(MV) Sat., Apr. 30 | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults | \$35 (Nonmembers: \$40)

3 WAYS TO REGISTER:

1 ONLINE:  
www.urbanecologycenter.org

2 BY PHONE:  
(414) 964-8505

3 IN PERSON:  
Just stop by!

(RP) = Riverside Park  
1500 E. Park Pl.

(WP) = Washington Park  
1859 N. 40<sup>th</sup> St.

(MV) = Menomonee Valley  
3700 W. Pierce St.



= Accessible for persons with disabilities  
Please call 2 weeks ahead of time

## Quick Guide

### Snowshoeing for Beginners

For thousands of years, snowshoeing has been an important form of travel and recreation in cold-weather climates. Join us to learn the basics of this classic sport. Equipment provided. Make sure to dress in layers and wear waterproof footwear.

(WP) Sat., Mar. 5 | 10 - 11:30AM

(MV) Sat., Mar. 12 | 10 - 11:30AM

(MV) Sat., Mar. 26 | 10 - 11:30AM

For adults and accompanied children | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

### Beginning Cross-Country Skiing

Don't get stuck inside this winter - give cross-country skiing a try! We'll provide the gear and the instruction that'll have you hitting the slopes in no time. Be sure to dress in layers.

(MV) Sat., Mar. 5 | 9 - 10:30AM

(MV) Sat., Mar. 5 | 11AM - 12:30PM

(MV) Sat., Mar. 19 | 9 - 10:30AM

(MV) Sat., Mar. 19 | 11AM - 12:30PM

For adults and accompanied children | Adults: \$6 (Nonmembers: \$9) Children: \$4 (Nonmembers: \$7)

### Bike Maintenance and Repair Series

Learn how to maintain a smooth and clean operating bicycle. For beginner to intermediate skill levels. Bring your own bike, or use one of ours.

#### Wheels and Tires

Registration required by March 29<sup>th</sup>.

(RP) Sun., Apr. 3 | 12:30 - 3PM

For adults and teens | \$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)

#### Brakes and Chains

Registration required by April 12<sup>th</sup>.

(RP) Sun., Apr. 17 | 12:30 - 3PM

For adults and teens | \$20 (Nonmembers: \$25)

#### Water Safety Course

Did you know that our contributing members can borrow our canoes and kayaks for free? To take advantage of this unique benefit, become a contributing member, then take this on-land water safety course.

(RP) Sun., Apr. 24 | 1 - 1:45 PM

(RP) Mon., Apr. 25 | 6 - 6:45 PM

For adults | Free - donations appreciated

## INTEREST GROUPS

### Ojibwe Language Study Group

(RP) Every Mon. | 6 - 8PM

### Community Vegan Potluck

(RP) Tues., Mar. 1 & Apr. 5 | 6:30 - 8PM

### Photo Club

(RP) Thus., Mar. 3 & Apr. 7 | 6:30 - 9PM

### 350.org General Meeting

(RP) Tues. Mar. 8 & Apr. 12 | 7 - 8:30PM

### Friends of Real Food: Potluck Dinner and Program

(RP) Weds., Mar. 9 | 6 - 8PM

### Urban Echo Poets

(RP) Thus., Mar. 10 & Apr. 14 | 7 - 8:30PM

### Urban Stargazers

(RP) Thus., Mar. 10 & Apr. 14 | 7 - 8:30PM

### Faith and Ecology

(RP) Tues., Mar. 15 & Apr. 19 | 7 - 8:30PM

### Transition Milwaukee: All City Hub Meeting

(RP) Mons., Mar. 28 & Apr. 25 | 6:30 - 8:30PM

### Good Food Book Club

(RP) Thu., Apr. 21 | 7 - 8PM

### Early Morning Birdwalks

(MV) Every Tue. | 8am  
(WP) Every Wed. | 8am  
(RP) Every Thu. | 8am

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Volunteer Orientation

Come find out how you can contribute your time and talents to the Center.

(MV) Sat., Mar. 5 | 10 - 11:30AM

(MV) Thu., Mar. 24 | 5:30 - 7PM

(MV) Sat., Apr. 2 | 10 - 11:30AM

(MV) Thu., Apr. 21 | 5:30 - 7PM

(RP) Fri., Mar. 11 | 3 - 4:30PM

(RP) Wed., Mar. 16 | 5:30 - 7PM

(RP) Sat., Mar. 26 | 10:30AM NOON

(RP) Fri., Apr. 1 | 3 - 4:30PM

(RP) Sat., Apr. 16 | 10:30AM - NOON

(RP) Mon., Apr. 18 | 5:30 - 7PM

(WP) Sat., Mar. 19 | 10:30 - 11:30AM

(WP) Wed., Mar. 30 | 5:30 - 6:30PM

(WP) Tue., Apr. 5 | 5:30 - 6:30PM

(WP) Sat., Apr. 16 | 10:30 - 11:30AM

(WP) Tue., Apr. 26 | 5:30 - 6:30PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

### Bird Banding Season Prep Party!

Help us mend nets, fix poles and prep other bird banding equipment before the season starts. Come and go as you please. No sewing experience necessary. Snacks provided.

(RP) Wed., Apr. 6 | 9AM - 1PM

For adults | Free - donations appreciated

### Bird Banding Workshop

Become involved in our second longest running citizen science project. For new and returning volunteers. Dress for the outdoors.

(RP) Fri., Apr. 8 | 8 - 11AM

For adults | Free - donations appreciated

### Spring Bird Banding

Join our citizen science bird banding team as they study migratory birds. Highly weather dependent. RSVP with Jennifer Callaghan at [jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org) before attending.

(MV) Tue., Apr. 19 | 5:30AM - NOON

(MV) Tue., Apr. 26 | 5:30AM - NOON

(RP) Thu., Apr. 14 | 5:30AM - NOON

(WP) Wed., Apr. 20 | 5:30AM - NOON

For adults, teens and accompanied children | Free - donations appreciated

### Fixin' Facilities

Come help with building and painting, repair and upkeep projects.

(RP) Every Wed. | 3-5PM

(WP) Sats., Mar. 5, 26,

Apr. 2 & 23 | 1 - 3PM

(WP) Thus., Mar. 24 &

Apr. 28 | 3:30 - 5PM

For adults and teens | Free - donations appreciated

### Youth Project Squad

Learn new skills as you work on various projects with our staff.

(MV) Sat. Mar. 5 & April 2 | NOON - 2PM and

Thus. Mar. 17 & April 21 | 4 - 6PM

For families and teens | Free - donations appreciated

### Weekly volunteer opportunities

Find these weekly events on the calendar on our website

ROOT (Restore Our Outdoor Treasures)  
Volunteer Papermaking  
Volunteer Park Ranger Crew

## ART AT THE CENTER

### Art Opening Reception — *Delight and Wonder*, Carol Schwartz

Carol Schwartz's paintings are illustrations for picture books that are science and nature related, where research is essential for an accurate finished piece. Carol will speak informally at 6pm. Refreshments provided.

(RP) Thu., Apr. 14 | 5 - 7PM

For everyone | Free - donations appreciated

### *The Wisconsin Natural* — Max Cozzi

Max Cozzi has created a portfolio of landscape photographs portraying the beauty and wonder that Wisconsin holds within its unaltered environment. Glacial formed hills and moraines, mazes of lakes and woods, dynamic and ever-changing shorelines of the Great Lakes — Wisconsin is full of magnificence.

(MV) Show runs through May  
For everyone | Free





## You Feel Mighty Free and Easy and Comfortable on a Raft

by Miguel Santos, Environmental Educator

Last summer the Urban Ecology Center held its first Engineering for Kids Summer Camp for third and fourth graders. The entire experience at this camp completely exceeded my expectations. The campers built a raft with their own hands out of recycled wood, inner tubes, ropes and milk jugs and on their last day of camp they embarked on a big adventure - gliding their raft down the Menomonee River.

I felt intimately connected to this project as it reminded me of my childhood. My friends and I used to build rafts with driftwood in the Alagón River Reservoir, Spain. It was a passion I could share with my campers.

After learning how to use the tools and materials safely, the children were divided into small groups to carry out different tasks. The groups quickly built cohesion and even created team names: frame friends, 45-degree-angle crew, cutting group, paddle workshopers, flag makers, sail masters, logo design team, brush artists, etc. They worked together enthusiastically every



day and showed an impressive degree of craftsmanship. What more could I ask for?

The raft was well designed and delightful. It was big enough to fit twelve campers and two educators. On one end they set a wide and sturdy sail and in the center they set a flag. Both the sail and the flag contained their own logo, which consisted of the initials UEC, a leafy tree and a crossed hammer and wrench icon. Besides the raft, the campers also designed and built their own paddles, a

pirate parrot painted on a piece of wood, pirate eye patches, and even fishing poles, bobbers and hooks all made of wood and wire.

On the last day of camp, we carried the raft into the Menomonee River and set off on our journey into the heart of Three Bridges Park. The campers were thrilled to explore the river further than they could have ever imagined. When canoers or kayakers would pass us by, the children greeted them with confidence. Like Huckleberry Finn once said, "there warn't no home like a raft, after all. Other places do seem so cramped up and smothery, but a raft don't. You feel mighty free and easy and comfortable on a raft" (Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*).

Check out a video showing the campers' epic adventure at <http://tinyurl.com/UECcamp>. Want your children to have their own adventures? Sign them up for Summer Camp! Visit [urbanecologycenter.org/summercamp](http://urbanecologycenter.org/summercamp) for details. 🌿

2016

# SUMMER CAMPS

at the

**URBAN  
ECOLOGY CENTER**

Riverside Park ✕ Washington Park ✕ Menomonee Valley

Scholarships Available

Learn more and register at [urbanecologycenter.org/summercamp](http://urbanecologycenter.org/summercamp)

**GREEN BIRDING  
CHALLENGE**

Saturday, May 14

Get a team together and search for birds without using any fossil fuel! Start early or late morning. Families welcome. Proceeds go to the Urban Ecology Center Research and Citizen Science program.

Registration opens mid-March



## Expand Your Culinary Options: Ask a Farmer

by Jamie Fersching, Branch Manager - Riverside Park

When I was a freshman in college, my Saturday running path led me right past a farmer's market. Each week I observed patrons in the market, coffee cups in hand, canvas bags hanging on their shoulders, conversing with friends, neighbors or farmers, seemingly having a pleasant time.

This was my first impression of the connection people could have to really fresh food. At that time in my gustatory path, I ate uninspired dorm food – cereal at least two meals a day, some over-steamed vegetables and iceberg lettuce salads.

When my dorm time ended I had to make culinary choices for the first time in my life. My mother and grandmothers set a solid foundation in me; eat good food and cook it yourself. I began by cooking a myriad of pasta dishes. I knew that at some point I should explore the world beyond pasta – but how? The answer - talk to the farmers at the market!

Armed with a newly acquired canvas bag, I embarked on my maiden voyage to the farmer's market where I walked around touching a few things and smiling pleasantly. It was possible that I fooled people into believing that I was familiar with chard, fennel and kohlrabi, but I was totally unsure of what I would do with vegetables I was not used to seeing at the grocery store. Upon seeing a sign that read "farm fresh eggs" I was immediately relieved – something totally familiar that I could confidently buy while exchanging pleasantries with the farmers who raised them. I took my purchase and walked home as a newly initiated farmer's market patron.

I returned every week and became more and more adventurous with my food choices. It has been the local farmers whom I've grown to know over time who have helped me define my view of food. A year after I started visiting the farmer's market, I became a Community Supported Agriculture member – a food purchasing model in which individuals purchase food shares of

a local farm for a season and receive a box of fresh farm produce weekly or biweekly.

Growing and eating food is both primal and personal. While my diet has a direct link to my health, my diet is also inextricably linked to the health of our planet. Eating a whole foods diet has become extremely important to me and since I don't grow all of my own food it is important to me that I know some of the farmers who do – farmers who are stewards of their soil, who know their produce, who don't use chemicals. I find so much value in having these farmers in my community.

Have you ever explored the world of fresh, local food? One way to start is at our Local Farmer Open House March 12th. Come and meet farmers who sell to our community and learn how you can support them through Community Supported Agriculture. We'll also have workshops that explore cooking with unfamiliar vegetables. 🌱



## Hey High Schoolers! We Need Your Help!

by Davita Flowers-Shanklin, Volunteer Coordinator

Looking to get some last minute service hours in before graduation? Want to give back to the community while having a great time? The Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park is the place for you! We are excited to have special opportunities for students who need to fulfill their service hours for graduation.

We are always excited to find new ways to connect high school students to the natural world. It is important to us that students have a place to go that is fun, safe and helps them gain skills that can lead to future success. Our brand new teen volunteer opportunity at Washington Park is "Fixin' Facilities."

At Fixin' Facilities you'll help with projects ranging from equipment maintenance to organizing tools and other building needs.

Projects for Fixin' Facilities vary day-by-day based on the size of the group and Center needs. No prior experience with tools required - we will teach you everything you need to know! Having volunteers who are excited to learn new things and help us with projects around the building has a major impact on what we are able to do. This opportunity happens three times a month on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday from 1-3pm and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday from 3:30-5:30pm.

Other teen volunteer opportunities at Washington Park include:

ROOT (Restoring Our Outdoor Treasures) which meets Wednesdays from 9-11am. ROOT is our most popular volunteer team. It is a chance for people to get outside, learn new skills, help maintain our native

plants and habitats and have a lot of fun!

Park Ranger Crew meets every Saturday from 10am-noon. Park Ranger Crew allows volunteers to do a self-guided activity that benefits the park and the Center. If you are more into solo volunteering, this is the opportunity for you! Volunteers walk through the park picking up trash and taking note of any damage or other concerns.

With all our opportunities, you are welcome to come for the full two hours or for just part, whatever works best for you. Come by yourself or bring a couple of your friends. If you have any questions please contact Davita Flowers-Shanklin at [dflowersshanklin@urbanecologycenter.org](mailto:dflowersshanklin@urbanecologycenter.org) or 414-344-5460. 🌱

# INVITE A FRIEND TO BECOME A CONTRIBUTING MEMBER

By making your gift, you become a contributing member of the Center. Your support provides learning opportunities for thousands of urban youth each year and allows you to enjoy contributing membership benefits at all three of our branches.

## Choose a Contributing Member Level:

- Student** - benefits one college student . . . . . \$30
- Individual** - member plus one guest . . . . . \$35
- Family** - two adults, and all children or grandchildren under 18 in a household plus one guest. . . . . \$45
- Other** - contributions above \$45 receive family level benefits and can help us:  
provide a membership for a family in need (\$90)  
provide a Summer Camp scholarship (\$200)  
restore urban land with native plants (\$500)  
Please enter an amount . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Give a gift membership:

Gift memberships are a great way to connect your friends and family to the natural world.

Recipient Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion \_\_\_\_\_

Deliver by \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:  Individual \$35  Family \$45

Send the announcement card to:  Me  Gift Recipient  Card picked up

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Name  I would like to remain anonymous

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my Card

Check enclosed (payable to Urban Ecology Center)

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

3-digit code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Everyone is welcome!** Thanks to generous donors we are able to offer need-based scholarships for memberships. For more information and to apply, please contact our Membership Staff at (414) 964-8505 or drop into one of our Centers and speak with our Visitor Services staff.

My gift is  in honor of or  in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

My employer (list below) has a matching gift program \_\_\_\_\_

I would like information about estate and planned giving

Please return this form to: Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

**Did you know you can become a contributing member securely online? Visit [urbanecologycenter.org](http://urbanecologycenter.org) and click Join.**



Help us Expand our Community!

Give the form above to a friend or family member who you think would love being a member too.

Or, create your own membership drive page online. Visit our website for details.

## WHY SPREAD THE WORD?

- Membership is more fun when friend and family are also members!**
- New members will thank you for introducing them to an organization that lets them borrow bikes, skis, canoes, kayaks and camping gear for free!**
- New membership contributions support our mission of connecting urban kids to nature!**
- You'll be entered into a drawing to win a "Milwaukee Secret Gem Adventure and Dinner" for four!**  
*(see Ken's article on page 1 for more details)*

Learn more at [urbanecologycenter.org/MilwaukeeEarthMonth](http://urbanecologycenter.org/MilwaukeeEarthMonth)

APRIL IS

**MILWAUKEE**

**EARTH  
MONTH**

at the URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER

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